

NSC BRIEFING

29 September 1960

CONGO

I. Political jockeying in Leopoldville continues, with the position of Mobutu's "government" rather tenuous.

A. In part due to pressure from the UN command and the Congo Army, Mobutu committed to seek reconciliation between Kasavubu and Lumumba. Projected roundtable conference of Congo political leaders will provide Lumumba with new opportunity to seize initiative.

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C. Lumumba, meanwhile, enjoys active support of UAR, Ghana, Guinea, and to a certain extent of Morocco.

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D. Mobutu's release of Gizenga on 24 September--at behest of Moroccan General Kettani--shows vacillation of Mobutu regime.

E. Army--Mobutu's main prop--restive over government's failure to meet payrolls, and the discrepancy between its pay scale and that of UN contingents.

II. Rumors of a possible Lumumba counter-coup against Mobutu are rife in Leopoldville, although scheduled roundtable conference may serve as brake on precipitous action.

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- A. On 25 September, Lumumba embarked on speaking tour of Leopoldville while under "protection" of Ghanaian troops. After Mobutu's vigorous protest, UN agreed to move Ghanaian contingent outside city, but has reversed decision after Nkrumah strongly protested.
 - B. Lumumba followers, including leftist Vice Premier Gizenga, have ordered campaign of terrorization of officials of Mobutu's government.
 - 1. On 26 September, pro-Lumumba demonstrators--on instructions of Gizenga--beat up two officials of Mobutu's cabinet.
 - C. Lumumba and Gizenga making preparation to transfer capital to Stanleyville.
 - 1. Gizenga had document instructing that troops be told Mobutu trying to bring back Belgians, and urging parliament members to so inform their constituents.
 - 2. Parliament members should then assemble in Stanleyville.
 - D. Pro-Lumumba governor of Leopoldville Province told press conference yesterday that "Civil war might break out in Leopoldville within a week."

III. Elsewhere, UN's report on Congo economy is not encouraging.

- A. Bayal's initial progress report warns of smallpox and plague threats, and states that fewer than 50 of the Congo's 400 hospitals have doctors.
- B. Report adds that so many farms have been abandoned in Congo that UN command has "no accurate count."
- C. It states that intertribal fighting in Kasai Province has left about 350,000 refugees.

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BACKGROUND

**LOCATION OF MAJOR UN
TROOP UNITS IN CONGO**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ethiopia	2600	Orientale (Stanleyville); Katanga (Kamina)
Ghana	2300	Leopoldville City
Guinea	750	Leopoldville Province (North)
Ireland	1400	Kivu (Goma); Katanga (Albertville)
Liberia	230	Kasai (Luluabourg)
Mali	580	Katanga (Kabalo)
Morocco	3250	Leopoldville Province (West Thysville); Equateur (Coquilhatville); Katanga (Jadotville and Kolwez)
Sudan	400	Leopoldville City
Sweden	620	Katanga (Elisabethville)
Tunisia	2600	Kasai (Luluabourg)
UAR	<u>520</u>	Leopoldville (Airport); Equateur (North)
	15,250	

Overall total in Congo: 16,382

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